UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/780
30 June 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SENEGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the official communiqué issued by the Government of Senegal concerning its participation in the peace process in Rwanda and in the multinational operation authorized by Security Council resolution 929 (1994) of 22 June 1994.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this communiqué circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE

Annex

Official communiqué from the Government of the Republic of Senegal dated 25 June 1994

True to its commitment to continue striving, within the bounds of international law, to promote peace and security in the world in general, and in Africa in particular, Senegal has been actively involved for two years in seeking a solution to the Rwandese conflict. Accordingly, only a few days after his election at the Dakar summit meeting, to the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), President Abdou Diouf sent a special representative to Arusha to assist the parties to the conflict in finding a negotiated political solution. This meeting ended with the signing, on 12 July 1992, of a cease-fire agreement between the Rwandese Patriotic Front and the Rwandese Government. Senegalese officers were part of the neutral OAU military observer group set up to supervise this cease-fire. Following the signing a year later, on 4 August 1993, of the Arusha Peace Agreement and the replacement of the military observer group by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), Senegal was planning to participate in this new United Nations peace-keeping operation, which is still in place in Rwanda.

Subsequently, when consulted by the Secretary-General of OAU, on 11 May 1994 at Pretoria, about Senegal's willingness to participate in a possible expansion of UNAMIR, whose troops had meanwhile been considerably reduced by the United Nations, President Abdou Diouf reacted positively. Thus, when the Security Council took the decision on 17 May 1994 to expand the UNAMIR force level up to 5,500 troops, our country informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations that it was prepared to make available to the United Nations a contingent of 860 troops.

In view of the delay in putting into place this expanded force, and the continuation of intolerable massacres of civilian populations, Senegal was consulted by France about the temporary deployment, as in the case of Somalia, of a multinational humanitarian mission. Our country agreed in principle at that time, it being understood that the Security Council would adopt a resolution on the question defining a clear mandate for fulfilling a precise objective.

This was accomplished on 22 June with the adoption of Security Council resolution 929 (1994), which "agrees that a multinational operation may be set up for humanitarian purposes in Rwanda until UNAMIR is brought up to the necessary strength", this mission being "limited to a period of two months ... unless the Secretary-General determines at an earlier date that the expanded UNAMIR is able to carry out its mandate".

Two facts should be noted with regard to the foregoing:

(1) Senegal's presence in Rwanda falls within a framework of humanitarian principles and a concern for promoting peace. Its intention is to contribute, in an impartial manner, to the security and protection of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in Rwanda.

If a country other than France had taken the initiative to propose the establishment of a multinational operation, our attitude would have been the same.

(2) Senegal pursues no other objective in Rwanda than that of helping to save human lives, put an end to the massacres and hostilities and bring about the resumption of the process of implementing the Arusha Peace Agreement, pursuant to the relevant OAU resolutions.